

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-166. (Canceled).

167. (New) A method of therapeutic or prophylactic treatment comprising the steps of:

(a) implanting a silicon implant into a human or animal, the implant comprising a drug and hydrophobic resorbable mesoporous silicon having a pore size between 20 Å and 500 Å, the drug being at least partly located in the pores of the porous silicon; and

(b) allowing the porous silicon to erode.

168. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the porous silicon comprises macroporous silicon.

169. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the drug is at least partly located in the silicon skeleton in which the pores are formed.

170. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the resorbable mesoporous silicon has a porosity between 2% and 80%.

171. (New) A method according to claim 170 wherein the resorbable mesoporous silicon has a porosity between 4% and 55%.

172. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the resorbable mesoporous silicon has a structure such that it is tissue compatible.

173. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein in step (b) the resorbable mesoporous silicon erodes over an interval of between one month and two years.

174. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the implant has a largest dimension x , wherein $0 < x \leq 2$ mm.

175. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the drug is distributed through substantially the whole volume of the material of said implant.

176. (New) A method according to claim 167 wherein the implant comprises substantially entirely resorbable mesoporous silicon.